

AUGUST 28, 2019

Members Present: **Jim Anderson, Julie Asmus, Tom Gilbertson, Rand Middleton, Andy Ogdahl, Rachel Skretvedt**

Staff Present: **Rob Baumgarn, Eric Banks, Britta Diem, Curt Hein, Ryan Scheffler, Becky Sorenson**

Guests Present: **Mike Anderson - Willmar Police Dept and Randy Hall**

Vice Chairman Jim Anderson opened the meeting and asked if there was a motion to approve last month's minutes. Andy Ogdahl made the motion and Rand Middleton seconded. Motion carried.

Jim introduced Randy Hall who gave a short talk on pickleball and its increasing popularity. There are between 3.5 and 4 million people playing. He stated that area pickleball players are looking forward to the completion of the new pickleball courts at Sperry Park. He also suggested that some rules should be posted to avoid any conflicts or problems with usage such as a limit on playing time if there are others waiting to play.

Rob asked Randy's opinion regarding the possibility of having a pickleball tournament during Willmar Fest next year. Randy thought that might be a possibility after getting adult and youth leagues going. Jim Anderson stated we need to establish quality of play. Those individuals who are more experienced won't have a good experience if they are playing against new players. Maybe two of the courts could be set aside for the better players.

Eric Banks asked about the age groups. Jim responded that currently most of the players are retired. Rachel Skretvedt stated that she thinks this would be a great addition to Rec activities. Rob said we are offering activity passes for the Auditorium with morning men's tennis, pickleball, noon hour basketball and pickleball again in the afternoons.

Curt Hein talked about the status of work on the courts. Riley Brothers has put down the tar base. Posts and nets will be installed. He said there would be 8 feet around the outer edges of the courts with a 12 foot alley between the north and south courts. Andy's Fence will be here next week to get the fences installed and they need two weeks to get done. By the end of September, the lines should be able to be painted (need to wait a month from the time of the tar base being installed for excess oil, etc to come out of tar before painting can be done).

A statement was made about keeping skate boarders and bicyclists out of the courts. Curt responded that he hoped that wouldn't be as big a problem since the courts are clearly visible from the highway.

PARK & RECREATION BOARD
AUGUST 28, 2019, PAGE 2

The next agenda item was the issue of golf cart usage at Robbins Island (notably during Rockin Robbins). People have been using their golf carts to come from the neighborhoods north of Hedin Park and coming across the walking bridge. There have been complaints from fisherman, walkers and bikers about congestion on the bridge. At the request of the Police Department, Public Works has placed a post in the middle to prevent golf cart access while still permitting walking, biking, etc.

Captain Mike Anderson from the Police Department was present to speak on the issue. He stated that golf carts are not allowed on any city streets in any city. The exception would be if a city passed an ordinance to allow golf carts usage on city streets, which would also mean that the carts would need to be licensed, have lights and insurance. Willmar does not have that type of amended ordinance. Also, the grant the City received for Robbins Island does state no motorized vehicles on the park's nature/walking/biking trails.

There have been complaints from the golf cart users about the post, expressed to their City Council representative. Rob invited these individuals to today's meeting but they weren't able to attend. Rob said he had informed them that the proper procedure was to present to the Parks and Recreation Board first and then it would go to the Public Works Safety Committee and finally to City Council.

Rachel said that once everything is done at the Island, the back side of the Island will be open to walkers, bikers, etc and that no motorized traffic would be allowed. She also mentioned that the post is a bendable post so no one who may hit it will go flying. Tom Gilbertson expressed his concerns on golf carts usage. He asked what the procedure would be to change the City ordinance. Rob said the City Council would have to make that change. Tom said he noticed, when he was in Olivia, many people using golf carts with some type of bumper sticker permit. Mike answered that, while smaller towns could probably allow golf carts on their streets, he didn't feel it would work in Willmar with the large amount of traffic.

After some discussion, Rob stated that this was a heads-up for the Board's information. Julie Asmus said the City Council had received an email or letter from some residents who were really pushing for permission to use their golf carts, saying they were really respectful but then there is the issue of teenagers. Tom Gilbertson stated his objection to the post. Mile Anderson said that the Police Department would follow whatever is decided. He stated that education has not worked. Tom made a suggestion that the post be removed during the Foot Lake 4 Race during Willmar Fest.

The next item on the agenda is the Four Season shelter. Rob stated that it went thru. He expressed thanks to the Board. The process started in 2015 and the Board got it done in 7 months. There was some discussion – air conditioning, spray foam insulation, polished concrete floor, steel roof. As the bid was over budget, some funds will be re-allocated.

Ram Construction out of Winsted is the contractor who had the lowest bid. There will be a pre-construction meeting soon. Hopefully earth work will be starting in a few weeks. Their contract states they need to be done by the end of May. They feel they can have the shell up before winter with work on the inside going on during winter and finishing the landscaping in the spring.

PARK & RECREATION BOARD
AUGUST 28, 2019, PAGE 3

Tom Gilbertson asked if we were on budget. Rob responded that the bids came in over budget \$1,250,000 (including the contingency). Julie Asmus talked about the Council's first directive that the maximum cost be no more than \$800,000. We went back to the drawing board for revisions. Julie said she had stated to the Council that, if we're going to build it, we should build it right. She also said that the City Council would need to know where the extra money would come from. Some extra money was freed up from the Public Works budget and money allocated for the amphitheater was also freed up. So not everyone was happy that the costs came in so high but it was voted in.

Rand Middleton stated the Tribune coverage talked about the Mayor commenting about micro managing. He asked Julie what he meant. Julie stated that she wasn't sure if there were too many ideas being brought forth regarding the layout of the shelter. She did hear comments about the length of time it took to make a decision. She stated there were numerous situations that caused the delays, Steve Brisendine's retirement, the breakup of Community Ed and Rec and forming a new Parks & Recreation Department, Ike Holland's leaving; also, at one time, the idea of adding the Community Center to the shelter was discussed and then finding out that was not allowed, all kinds of things added to the delays.

Rob mentioned that we have a project manager in Curt Hein. Rob stated that he will get the bid process started and, once they have been awarded, Curt will then take over.

The WarHawks Lease – This is for the Board's info only. Since this meeting was rescheduled, Eric Banks presented the lease to the Finance Committee last week so it could go to City Council this week. Rob called upon Eric to discuss the lease. The lease will go up \$1,000 - \$145 to \$150 per hour. Game rental is \$750 per game - 22 games. Concession sales – we split the concession with the Warhawks after product and labor expenses. We have control of the concession stand during dry floor events and high school games. The lease is one year; the advertising lease is 1 year. Approval is needed from Rob before any advertising is placed. The advertising lease is \$8,000 with two payments due November 15 and February 15.

The first home game was supposed to be October 5 but that won't happen as the Cardinal Arena won't be ready. The WarHawk season opener will be at Litchfield on October 5 and their home opener on October 12. We have a dry floor event at the end of September so we can't start building ice until after that event is done. It is an involved process to build the ice and we have to be careful when we start that we don't go too fast and destroy the ice in the Blue Line Arena.

As there was no further discussion regarding the Warhawks lease, the next topic discussed was the by-laws and terms of office. As Rob stated, this has been an ongoing process since January. The first item to decide is term limits. We need two members to serve a one year term, two to serve a two year term and three to serve a three year term. Rachel has already requested to serve a one year term. A drawing was done with remaining members with Britta and Ryan subbing in for Abdi and Val who were not in attendance. The term list follows: Rachel Skretvedt and Tom Gilbertson – term ends January 2, 2020; Jim Anderson and Abdi Hussein – term ends January 2, 2021; Rand Middleton, Andy Ogdahl and Val Swanson – term ends Jan. 2, 2022.

PARK & RECREATION BOARD
AUGUST 28, 2019, PAGE 4

The question has arisen regarding attendance at the Board meetings. Rob stated that it is important that we have a quorum so we don't need to re-schedule as we did this month. There needs to be four present at the meetings to meet our quorum. How many meetings can a Board member miss before Rob has a conversation with them? As we only meet once a month, it is important that we have a quorum so we are able to make timely recommendations to the various committees to go to the Council.

A discussion followed regarding attendance. Rachel stated that, as this is a smaller board, she feels it is important that everyone be able to attend as much as possible. Rob stated he would look into other Board's policies regarding attendance. Tom Gilbertson stated that he makes the meeting a priority and puts it on his calendar and it's difficult for him when the meeting gets re-scheduled. Rob asked if everyone has had a chance to look over the by-laws. It was decided that Rob would send out a clean copy of the bylaws for the Board members to look over for the next meeting.

Rand Middleton questioned if the 1:30 time works for everyone or if there would be a better time. Rob stated that staff is here and is willing to work with the Board regarding time. Rob stated he also feels that we need to allocate 90 minutes instead of 60 minutes since we have so many things coming up that need discussion and recommendations.

The Coordinator's Reports followed. Ryan Scheffler started out by saying the tackle football is getting started. We are getting back to playing outside teams. We are taking registrations for flag football for grades 1-4, currently have around 45 registered. We are offering Sports Sampler this fall for 3-5 year olds. Indoor Soccer will be starting early October.

Britta stated the Community Center has been busy with their normal activities: bone builders, aging wisely, meals, etc. The Center was a site for County Fair bussing. She is working on getting the Aquatic Center cleaned out and closed down for the winter. She has about 50 response to her survey, trying to get info on activities/programs that the public would like to see offered.

Eric said summer softball went well. Adaptive programming also was well attended, especially the new "backyard games" program. He stated that there are a couple of upcoming dry floor events, the Tribune garage sale and the quilt show. He is getting ready for the fall programs, volleyball and basketball.

Jim asked if there were any other comments. Rand Middleton asked if the Board really needed to give permission for any new programs. Rob stated that he didn't feel that was necessary. We do bring things to the Board and will listen to input from the Board.

As there was no further business, Tom Gilbertson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Ogdahl. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 18.